

*LOMOGRAPHA CARARIA* (HUBN. (LEP.:  
GEOMETRIDAE) ON JERSEY — A NEW SPECIES TO  
THE CHANNEL ISLANDS AND THE BRITISH ISLES

By ADRIAN M. RILEY\*

An individual of this species was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap on Jersey (Site No. 146) during the period 1-3-viii-1981 and was identified from the colour figure in Spuler (1910). The specimen has since been given to the British Museum (Natural History) who have confirmed its identity.

*Cararia* is not known to be migratory and there were no known migrant species caught in the Jersey trap around this time. Seitz (1912), Culot (1919) and Forster and Wohlfahrt (1981) state that the species is both local and scarce so it is possible that its European distribution is far greater than presently assumed. The larval food-plant, poplar, is common in the vicinity of the Jersey trap and the possibility of *cararia* being resident on the island should be thoroughly investigated. This species is rarely mentioned in continental literature but the following notes give a brief account of its known biology.

The distribution abroad includes S.E. Europe and Asia. It is found to an altitude of 600m, inhabiting damp areas adjacent to rivers and streams (Seitz 1912 and Forster and Wohlfahrt 1981). It can also be found along avenues of poplars (Koch 1976). The flight time is usually early June to mid-August, though in the extreme south-east of its range it flies from early April to August in two overlapping generations (Forster and Wohlfahrt 1981).

The egg is reddish brown and oval (Forster and Wohlfahrt 1981). The larva is described as ventrally light green, dorsally light yellowish green with darker dorsal chevrons and a dark violet dorsal stripe. The head is dark brown. It feeds from July to September on poplar (Forster and Wohlfahrt 1981) and possibly oak and lime (Koch 1976). It pupates either in a loose cocoon on the ground or in a rolled or folded leaf (Forster and Wohlfahrt 1981).

The pupa is short and thick, dorsally reddish brown, paler ventrally. Wing cases green. The species overwinters in this stage.

Good colour illustrations of the adult are given in Spuler (1910) and Koch (1976).

#### Acknowledgements

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### References

- Forster and Wohlfahrt (1981) *Die Schmetterlinge Mitteleuropas*. 5, Geometridae, p. 202.  
Koch, M. (1976) *Wir Bestimmen Schmetterlinge*. 4, Geometridae, p. 192-193 & pl. 12, fig. 285.  
Seitz, A. (1912) *Macrolepidoptera of the World*. 4p. 36.  
Spuler, A. (1910) *Die Schmetterlinge Europas*. 3, pl. 59, fig. 5.
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NOTES ON THE RED UNDERWING, CATOCALA NUPTA L. (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) — On 18th September 1984 I captured a female *nupta* in my garden m.v. trap. Following advice from Bernard Skinner, the moth was confined to a netting-covered container with a pad of sugar-soaked paper for food. The next morning, several eggs had been laid through the netting. A few more eggs were added each night until around 50 had been laid, at which time the moth expired.

The eggs, still attached to the netting and contained in a small plastic box, were overwintered in an outside car-port. In spring they were lightly sprayed and transferred to a refrigerator until the leaves on the local black poplars (*Populus nigra* L.) were about to open. The first larva hatched in late April, with a second ten days later (when the first was about one inch long) and a third after a further two weeks. The first larva formed a loose cocoon in soil during the first week in June, followed by the other two a week later. All the moths emerged between the 8th and 9th July. (No doubt indoor rearing caused these early emergences).

The interesting observation is that although there were four weeks between the first and last hatchings, the larvae pupated within two weeks of each other, and emerged within two days! R. F. McCORMICK, FRES 125 Brocks Drive, North Cheam, Surrey.

PINION-SPOTTED PUG (EUPITHECIA INSIGNIATA HUBN.) (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE IN SUFFOLK. — A single male of this species was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey light trap at Broom's Barn Experimental Station near Bury St. Edmunds (Site No. 88, O.S. Grid Ref. TL 752 656) on the night of 4/5-vi-1985. So far as I am aware this species has not previously been recorded in Suffolk. Thanks are extended to A. Thornhill for operating the trap at Broom's Barn. ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 2JQ.